

CLAIMS

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A digital image forming apparatus comprising:  
a store configured to store a plurality of data in a stored order;  
a selection device configured to select an arbitrary desired data order for the plurality of data in the store without regard to the stored order;  
a linking controller configured to link the plurality of data from the store into the arbitrary desired data order selected by the selection device to form a data group for performing an operation;  
an operation controller configured to receive the data group from the linking controller and to control performance of the operation using the data in the data group in the arbitrary desired data order selected by the selection input device.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the plurality of data in the store includes image data or document data or both image data and document data.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the operation controlled by the operation controller includes a printing job.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the plurality of data in the store includes print job finishing conditions and said operation includes print job finishing.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer program stored on a machine readable medium, the computer program comprising:

first program means for controlling storing of a plurality of data in a storage order;

second program means for selecting an arbitrary desired data order of the plurality of data without regard to the storage order;

third program means for linking the stored data selected in said arbitrary desire data order to form a data group for performing an operation;

fourth program means for controlling performing the operation using the data in the data group in the selected arbitrary desired data order.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the plurality of data includes image data or document data or both image data and document data.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the operation includes a printing job.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the plurality of data includes print job finishing conditions and said operation includes print job finishing.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of linking independent data from different locations in a storage device to form ordered linked data, comprising:

storing a plurality of data in a storage order;

selecting an arbitrary desired operation order for the plurality of data without regard to the storage order;

linking the plurality of data into the arbitrary desired operation order selected in the selecting step to form a data group for performing an operation;

performing the operation using the data in the data group in the selected arbitrary desired data order.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14 including a step of producing the plurality of data to include image data or document data or both image data and document data.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the operation is a print job.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the plurality of data includes print job finishing conditions and said operation includes print job finishing.

18. (New) A method of printing data files using an image printing device, comprising:  
storing data files in a storage device associated with the image printing device;  
selecting, in an arbitrary order, a plurality of the data files stored in the storage device;  
selecting a print start command; and  
printing the selected plurality of data files as a single job, wherein the plurality of data files are printed in the selected order.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
selecting a number of copies of each of the plurality of data files to be printed.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
obtaining the plurality of data files by scanning, wherein the plurality of data files include at least one of image data and document data.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the selecting steps are performed by a user through interaction with an operation and display panel.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the selected arbitrary order of the plurality of data files is unrelated to an order in which the data files were stored in the storage device.

23. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
selecting at least one print condition including selecting at least one of stapling and punching.

24. (New) An image printing device, comprising:  
a storage device configured to store data files;  
a selection device configured to select, in an arbitrary order, a plurality of the data files stored in the storage device, and to select a print start command; and  
a printing device configured to print the selected plurality of data files as a single job, wherein the plurality of data files are printed in the selected order.

25. (New) The image printing device of claim 24, further comprising:  
means for selecting a number of copies of each of the plurality of data files to be printed.

26. (New) The image printing device of claim 24, further comprising:  
a scanning device configured to obtain the plurality of data files by scanning, wherein the plurality of data files include at least one of image data and document data.

27. (New) The image printing device of claim 24, wherein the selection device includes an operation and display panel configured to be operated by a user.

28. (New) The image printing device of claim 24, wherein the selection device is configured to select the plurality of data files independently of an order in which the data files were stored in the storage device.

29. (New) The image printing device of claim 24, wherein the selection device is configured to select at least one print condition including at least one of stapling and punching.

30. (New) A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium, the computer program product including instructions configured to cause an image printing device to print data files by performing the steps of:

storing data files in a storage device associated with the image printing device;  
selecting, in an arbitrary order, a plurality of the data files stored in the storage device;  
selecting a print start command; and  
printing the selected plurality of data files as a single job, wherein the plurality of data files are printed in the selected order.

31. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:  
instructions for selecting a number of copies of each of the plurality of data files to be  
printed.

32. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:  
instructions for obtaining the plurality of data files by scanning, wherein the plurality  
of data files include at least one of image data and document data.

33. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the selecting steps are  
performed by a user through interaction with an operation and display panel.

34. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the selected arbitrary  
order of the plurality of data files is unrelated to an order in which the data files were stored  
in the storage device.

35. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:  
selecting at least one print condition including selecting at least one of stapling and  
punching.